

APPLICATION

FOR

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that Nathan Cohen, a US citizen, residing in Belmont, Massachusetts has invented certain improvements in a WIDE-BAND FRACTAL ANTENNA of which the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings is a specification, like reference characters on the drawings indicating like parts in the several figures.

WIDE-BAND FRACTAL ANTENNA

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is related to the following U.S. applications, of common assignee, from which priority is claimed, and the contents of which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference: U.S. Application Number: 60/458,333 (Filed March 29, 2003)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to wideband performance antenna, and more particularly, to discone or bicone antenna.

[0003] Antenna are used to radiate and/or receive typically electromagnetic signals, preferably with antenna gain, directivity, and efficiency. Practical antenna design traditionally involves trade-offs between various parameters, including antenna gain, size, efficiency, and bandwidth. Antenna size is also traded off during antenna design that typically reduces frequency bandwidth. Being held to particular size constraints, the bandwidth performance for antenna designs such as discone and bicone antennas is sacrificed resulted in reduced bandwidth.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In one implementation, an apparatus includes a discone antenna including a cone-shaped element whose physical shape is at least partially defined by at least one pleat.

[0005] One or more of the following features may also be included. The discone antenna may include a disc-shaped element whose physical shape is at least partially defined by a fractal geometry. The physical shape of the cone-shaped element may include a least one hole. The physical shape of the cone-shaped element may be at least partially defined by a series of pleats that extend about a portion of the cone.

[0006] In another implementation, an apparatus includes a bicone antenna including two cone-shaped elements whose physical shape is at least partially defined by at least one pleat.

[0007] One or more of the following features may also be included. The physical shape of one of the two cone-shaped elements may be at least partially defined by at least one hole. The physical shape of one of the two cone-shaped elements may be at least partially defined by a series of pleats that extend about a portion of the cone.

[0008] In another implementation, an apparatus includes an antenna including a disc-shaped element whose physical shape is at least partially defined by a fractal geometry.

[0009] One or more of the following features may also be included. The physical shape of the disc-shaped element may be at least partially defined by a hole.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 depicts a conventional discone antenna.

FIG. 2 depicts a conventional bicone antenna

FIG. 3 depicts a shorted discone antenna.

FIG. 4 depicts a discone antenna including a pleated cone and a disk.

FIG. 5 depicts a bicone antenna including two pleated cones.

FIG. 6. depicts an SWR chart revealing the impedance response of the antenna depicted in Fig. 3.

FIG. 7 depicts a relative size comparison between the conventional discone antenna depicted in FIG. 1 and the discone antenna depicted in FIG. 3.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0010] In general, a wideband requirement for an antenna, especially a dipole-like antenna, has required a bicone or discone shape to afford the performance desired over a large pass band. For example, some pass bands desired exceed 3:1 as a ratio of lowest to highest frequencies of operation, and typically ratios of 20:1 to 100:1 are desired. Referring to FIG. 1, prior art discone antenna 5 includes a sub-element 10 shaped as a cone whose apex is attached to one side of a feed system at location 20. A second sub-element 30 is attached to the other side of the feed system, such as the braid of a coaxial feed system. This sub-element is a flat disk meant to act as a counterpoise.

[0011] Referring to FIG. 2, another current antenna design is depicted that includes a bicone antenna 35, in which a sub-element 40 is arranged similar to sub-element 10 shown the discone antenna 5 of FIG. 1 with a similar feed arrangement at location 50. However, for bicone antenna 35 rather than a second sub-element shaped as a disk, a second cone 60 is attached.

[0012] Both discone and bicone antennas afford wideband performance often over a large ratio of frequencies of operation; in some arrangements more than 10:1. However, such antennas are often $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength across, as provided by the longest operational wavelength of use, or the lowest operating frequency. In height, the discone is typically $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength and the bicone almost $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength of the longest operational wavelength. Typically, when the lowest operational frequency corresponds to a relatively long wavelength, the size and form factor of these antenna becomes cumbersome and often prohibitive for many applications.

[0013] Some investigations have attempted to solve this problem with a shorted discone antenna 65 as depicted in FIG 3. Here, 'vias' are used to electrically short the disk to the cone at specific locations as 70 and 70'. Typically this shorting decreases the lowest operational frequency of the antenna. However, the gain does not improve from this technique.

[0014] Referring to FIG. 4, to provide wider bandwidth performance, while allowing for reduced size and form factors, shaping techniques are incorporated into the components of the antenna. For example, a discone antenna 75 includes a conical portion 80 that includes pleats that extend about a circumference 85 of the conical portion. Along with incorporating pleats into the conical portion of the discone antenna 75, to further improve bandwidth performance while allowing for relative size reductions based on operating frequencies, shaping techniques are incorporation into the disc element of the antenna. In this example, a disc element 90 of the discone antenna 75 is defined by a fractal geometry, such as the fractal geometries described in United States Patent 6,140,975, filed November 7, 1997, which is herein incorporated by reference. By incorporating the pleats into the conical portion and the fractal (i.e., self-similar) disc design, the size of the discone antenna 74 is approximately one half of the size of the discone antenna 5 (shown in FIG. 1) while providing similar frequency coverage and performance.

[0015] Referring to FIG. 5, a bicone antenna 100 is shown that includes two conical portions 110, 120. Each of the two conical portions 110, 120 are respectively defined by pleats that extend about the respective circumferences 130, 140 of the two portions. By incorporating the pleat-shaping into the conical portions 110, 120, the bicone antenna 100 provides the

frequency and beam-pattern performance of a larger sized bicone antenna that does not include shaping, such as the bicone antenna 35 (shown in FIG. 2).

[0016] While the shaping techniques implemented in the discone antenna 75 (shown in FIG. 4) and the bicone antenna 100 (shown in FIG. 5) utilized a pleat-shape in the conical portions and a fractal shape in the disc portion, other geometric shapes, including one or more holes, can be incorporated into the antenna designs.

[0017] Referring to FIG. 6, by incorporating these shaping techniques, for example, into a discone antenna, such as the discone antenna 75 (shown in FIG. 4), the standing wave ratio (SWR) of the antenna demonstrates the performance improvement. For example, X-Y chart 150 depicts a wideband 50 ohm match of the discone antenna across the entire frequency band (e.g., 100 MHz – 3000 MHz). Along with improving performance over the operating frequency band, and extending the operational frequency band, referring to FIG 7., by incorporating the shaping techniques, a discone antenna 170 that includes pleats and a fractal shaped disc is relatively smaller and provides similar performance than a discone antenna 160 that does not incorporate the shaping techniques.